

in which even non-Catholics mistrust, and no longer find satisfaction in the threadbare fairy tales and worm-eaten historical chestnuts of yore, but are now beginning, like real and true historians, to study the old original documents. This is true also with regard to Spanish-American history. To describe Spanish domination in the New World as a mere system of brutal plunder and mercenary rapine, is a kind of so-called historical appreciation the time for which is happily past. The popular and religious passions kindled in the sixteenth century, flaming with greatest vehemence in the seventeenth, and adroitly nursed by England, are out of season now, and we no longer admit that people could have achieved great things without at least some great and noble motives; still less, that it could have maintained its hold at such great disadvantages as the Spaniards labored under, without manifest ability, wisdom, and some humanity in its directing power.

For this unearthing of the truth we are mainly indebted to the indefatigable student, scholar and master of American antiquity, A. F. Bandelier, whose work and researches under the auspices of the Archaeological Institution of America, and on the Hemenway Survey has entitled him to stand first as the documentary historian of Spanish-America, and also to rank as the most exhaustive of its explorers. Hardly less are we indebted to Mr. Bandelier's zealous disciple and co-laborer, the intrepid and straightforward Charles F. Lummis, who says: "No student dares longer refer to Prescott or Irving, or any of the class of which they are leaders, as authorities in history; they rank today as writers of romance, and nothing more."

And not only historians of this ilk have contributed towards disfiguring the history of Spain on our continent, but even many Catholic writers are not free from such ideas and prejudices. Would any honest and critical historian even dream of accepting the passionate utterances of enthusiasts, such as Cola di Rienzi, or Savonarola, or to be more just, even the writings of zealous, godfearing, and saintly men such as